



Junkanoo Journal

**Official
Newsletter of
U.S. Embassy
Nassau**

May 15—26, 2005

Picture of the Week! Royal Bahamas Police Receive Computers



The Royal Bahamas Police Force on May 18 received a gift of computers, printers and projectors. Presented by United States Ambassador John D. Rood to Mr. Reginald Ferguson, Assistant Commissioner of Police and Acting Superintendent Mr. Raymond Gibson at the Drug Enforcement Unit on Tuesday May 17, 2005. The computers will be sent to the Marine Unit, Airport, Registry, DEU and to the bases in Exuma, Andros and Great Inagua to support the ongoing Operation Bahamas and Turks and Caicos counter drug missions. The computer equipment is valued at approximately \$50,000. Funding for this equipment was made available by the International Narcotics Control (INC) under the Letter of Agreement on Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement between the Government of the United States of America and The Government of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas. Since 1991, more than \$3.4 million dollars have been donated by the United States to the people of The Bahamas in a joint effort to combat illegal drugs.

Happy Birthday!

**Gloria Guiterrez
May 21**

**Tanya Storr
May 21**

**June Lunn
May 22**



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OPBAT At Work by Lt Brian McLaughlin

At around 5 p.m., I was unwontedly pulled away from what was nothing short of a marathon run of video gaming by the voice on VHF radio in the kitchen calling in. As I peeled myself from the couch that was now permanently shaped like my derriere, I loped into the kitchen to see what could possibly be so important as to interrupt my fictitious world of gun-slinging and car theft. “6015, home plate, go ahead,” I replied.

“Home plate, 6015, roger, we’re on scene where the migrant boat came ashore. We have nine migrants on board: five women and four infants. They are all in pretty rough shape. Request you call the maintenance guys and RBDF and see if we can get some water and blankets and stuff for them.” “6015, how far away from home plate are you?” “About five minutes. There are more people here, but these ones are in the worst condition.” “6015, roger. Do you need us to bring a truck out there to get more people?” “Negative. The Bahamians are there already. If you could just get some blankets and water together, we’ll be there soon.” “Roger. What’s your ETA?” “We’re leaving scene now. Five minutes out. I can see the field from here.” “15, home plate. Roger. We’re on it.”

A day earlier, news had gotten around our compound that a Haitian migrant boat had landed on the island several miles southeast of here. Apparently, one of the men from the boat had walked into Matthewtown, stated where he was from to the local authorities, and also stated that there were dozens of people still at the landing site outside of town. Not being all that unusual a scenario, the local authorities having already been notified, and the fact that the migrants were already on land, we naturally assumed that our services would not be needed. Our purpose in the aviation side is mainly to locate and intercept migrants *before* they make landfall. In this case, these guys made it through the holes in the fence all the way here to Great Inagua. Our assumption could not have been more off, however.

Earlier, at around 3:15 p.m., Mr. Johnson, a city official for Matthewtown – the single town on an island of about 200 inhabitants, not including the Coast Guard base, approached the duty Coast Guard aircraft commander and explained the scenario to him, also adding that there were several small children and infants still on the beach. Having only that information to work with, the AC called the OPBAT Command Center informing them of the situation, and worked out a plan to check out the Haitian landing site on their way to their scheduled Law Enforcement patrol.

As I hung up the mic to the radio, the Warrant Officer standing next to me, having heard the whole conversation, bolted out the door on his way to make preparations for the helicopter’s arrival.

We’ve got stuff inbound!” I yelled to my fellow sofa “gangsta” as I made my way out of our trailer and over to the trailer where the Royal Bahamian Defense Force (RBDF) agents were staying. I asked the agent to call the local authorities and let them know we had migrants inbound on the helicopter. Then I too headed down to the hangar to await the arrival of the helicopter, whose distinctive rotor noise I could already hear thumping its impending arrival like a battle cry in the distance. My entire trip took approximately two minutes. I mention that because by the time I got to the hangar, almost every person who was present on the compound was already there, donning latex gloves, getting water and preparing a staging site to put the migrants. I felt like I had just taken my time getting there, as everyone else had quickly sprung to action. I was amazed at the reaction time and almost instinctive preparation and planning mode all of our guys had gone in to.

As the remaining few guys made their way over to the hangar, the helicopter landed and taxied into the ramp area with their new passengers. Not having a really good perspective of what “pretty rough shape” entailed as far migrants were concerned, I figured they would just be hungry, thirsty and kind of grumpy from their journey. Wrong again. As the rotor head spun down, a force of no less than ten Coasties, DEA and RBDF Agents approached the helicopter and began literally carrying women and babies to the air crew lounge set up in the hangar. Following suit, I approached and was handed a young girl, about 2 years old, no clothes at all, just staring blankly at the world. As I entered the lounge, the crews had already opened up several of our “C-130 Overflow Crew” cots and were helping those who needed it into the next available one. I placed my little cargo on a cot with three other babies, one of which was clearly displeased with the whole situation, and made sure she was all right.

When the word finally came, the crew once again sprang to action loading cots into the bed of our F-250 pick-up truck /make-shift ambulance and others in the seats and took them to the clinic. The first shipment to the clinic departed leaving a few of us behind with the remaining Haitians to ensure they were tended to. Though none of us spoke French-Creole, the Warrant and a few others walked among the Haitians quasi-communicating with them in Spanish (apparently much more effective than trying in English), asking their names, how old they were, what the babies’ names were, just to ease if only a bit of their tension.

When the truck returned for the second round, we placed the remaining cot in the bed of the truck, a Coastie with a baby in his arms in the back seat, and three other migrants in the RBDF vehicle for transport to the clinic. Kneeling on the open tailgate of the truck, I helped another crew member try to minimize the bumping effect of the road for the pregnant woman who was clearly in a great deal of physical distress.

If the crew lounge in the hangar was busy when we had everyone in there, then the clinic resembled Grand Central Station upon our arrival. The clinic, composed of two offices, a pharmacy, a reception desk, and one examination/emergency/operating/recovery room with two beds, was packed wall to wall with the ten Haitians, Coasties, one doctor, one nurse and a couple of local volunteers. Haitian bodies adorned the floors, cots brought in from the truck, and chairs in the waiting room, while the men with me quickly became battlefield medics. Not a single one of us having any training other than CPR and first-aid, we found ourselves feeding patients, making re-hydrating solutions, hanging and tending IVs, aiding in the treatment of wounds, moving patients to and from beds, and overall management of the clinic while the lone doctor tried to combat language barriers and tend to all of the Haitians.

The pregnant woman, lying on a cot in the hallway of the clinic, continued to express her physical discomfort through moans and groans. As there was only so much the other air crew members and I could do for her, we repeatedly sent for the doctor to at least check her out. When we finally convinced the doctor to see her, he pulled her shirt up and exposed her belly to palpate it and instead discovered a length of quarter-inch rope wrapped tightly around her abdomen three times, apparently to stem whatever pain she was suffering. Fighting back stereo gasps in reaction to what we saw, knowing the woman was pregnant, three other. The woman was in so much pain, however, that we could not sit her up and unravel it from around her. Borrowing one of the guys' leatherman tools, I slid the knife carefully between the ropes and her belly and sawed it away while someone else held it clear of her skin.

Finally breathing calmly again, I walked into the combo room to see if anyone else needed assistance. There I saw one of the Flight Mechs. single-handedly tending to three of the infants. In between his feeding them crackers and shots of Pedialite, I asked, "Need any help, Gary?" "Nah," he said, holding the feverish infant with one arm and giving him water out of a styrofoam cup with the other. "I've Coasties and I stared at the rope, just wondering 'why.'" Then it dawned on us that perhaps we should remove the ropee got three of my own. I've got this." Having only two (dogs) of my own, I figured I'd let the resident expert handle that one.

To add to the overall mix, the Bahamian Police had apprehended one of the smugglers from the ship. The ship's mechanic, a Cuban national, could actually speak a bit of English but played coy very well. One of our guys changed hats once again and became just-add-water-instant interpreter. I listened while our Mr. Johnson grilled "Antonio" via our interpreter on how many migrants he had taken on board, how long they were underway, where they were going and if he would identify the captain of the vessel out of the crowd of over one hundred migrants they had at a separate location. Freddy, our guy, has either seen too much TV or done this before. As I watched him interact with and question Antonio, I was surprised at how well he handled the suspect, like this was just another day at the precinct. Though Antonio talked in circles, back peddled and lied through his (remaining) teeth, I felt like I was on the set of *NYPD Blue* watching Freddy coolly pull pieces of information from a torrent of mixed stories.

At the conclusion of the questions, those of us left at the clinic piled once more into the pick-up and headed back to base.

Throughout the course of the evening, we would catch bits and pieces of what happened along the journey of these Haitians through the interpreters. We heard how two babies and one man had died along the way, and their bodies were simply cast into the water. We heard them talk of the boat grounding just offshore and filling with water, leaving some of the people trapped in the hull unable to escape the infiltrating water. The women spoke of burying their babies in the beach sand until help arrived to keep the all the bugs off of them. Eight days of living with over a hundred other people on a dangerously undersized boat, with small and diminishing amounts of food and water, if any for some.

The story of the Haitian migrants is not new or earth shattering, but tragic nonetheless. I have been part of repatriating Haitian migrants before, when I was assigned to a ship; sometimes working with more than 120 at one time. The difference is that the large Coast Guard Cutters are prepared for these situations; with stocks of rice and beans, stores of water and blankets for the migrants to use until they are returned to their home country. And though the number here only totaled 10 people at its peak, here at Great Inagua, we're not realistically set up to receive trauma victims of any sort.

Regardless, what I witnessed of the men here that day was nothing less than remarkable. Yes, the Coast Guard is generally charged with taking care of people, but this was different. From the minute these guys were informed there were people in some form of distress being brought to our base, they kicked into action without a second's hesitation. The only real task direction I saw throughout the whole incident was the initial notification of the inbound patients. From that point on, the guys were on autopilot, as if they did this sort of thing all the time.

YOUR MSG DET WOULD LIKE YOU...

TO JOIN US IN CELEBRATING MEMORIAL DAY!!!

JOIN US ON MAY 30TH @ 1400 – 2000

THE MARINE HOUSE WILL BE SELLING DRINKS
AS WELL AS HAMBURGERS AND BRATWURSTS.
(GUESTS ARE ENCOURAGED
TO BRING A SIDE DISHES OR
DESSERTS)



JOIN IN A GAME OF VOLLEYBALL OR BASKET-
BALL, OR JUST HAVE A DIP IN THE POOL.

2005 OVERSEAS SUMMER HIRE PROGRAM (OSHP)

The Human Resources Office is now accepting applications for the Summer Hire Program of 2005. Post's Summer Hire program will be from May 29 – September 30. Please submit applications (OF-612) to the Human Resources Office.

The summer hire program is designed to facilitate the employment of eligible family member (EFM) students (ages 16 to 24 who are currently enrolled in school) and to provide clerical and administrative support to posts abroad during the summer vacation season. The OSHP is intended for EFMs who are officially physically and/or geographically resident or attached to the sponsor's post of assignment. Please contact HR for more details.

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Junka-news

Hurricane News

Hurricane Supply Kit

It's never early enough to be prepare for a hurricane or disaster. Here is a small list to help!

Water (at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days)

Food (at least enough for 3 to 7 days)

- non-perishable packaged or canned food/juice
- food for infants or the elderly
- snack foods
- non-electric can opener
- cooking tools/fuel
- paper plates/plastic utensils

Blankets/Pillow/ect

Clothing

First Aid Kit/medicines/Prescription Drugs

Toiletries/hygiene items/moisture wipes

Flashlight/Batteries/Candles

Radio

Cash both Bahamian and US)

Keys

Toys Books and Games

Important Documents (in a waterproof container)

- insurance, medical records, bank account numbers
- social

security card, ect.

Vehicle fuel tanks filled

Pet Care Items

- proper identification/immunization records/medications
- ample supply of food and water
- airline approved carrying kennel
- leash
- picture of your pet

For additional information visit
the National Hurricane Center;

www.nhc.noaa.gov

Town Meeting

Who: EVERYONE

When: June 8th 4:00

Where: British Colonial Hilton

Why: Hurricane Preparedness

Ambassador Rood is having an all hands meeting to be certain we are prepared for this year's hurricane season. Please bring your 2005 Personnel Evacuation Data Sheet and Shelter Election Form. The forms are available from your Agency Heads and the Clo. You will also need to bring your passports for **everyone** in you family. Families are invited.

Mission Issued Radio

Considering that phone lines might go down during a storm or disaster, Mission-Issued Radios may be your primary source of communication. Please ensure that your radio is functioning

properly by conducting test with MSG Post 1.



Milly About Town

By Milly Krause

Restaurant Review

Columbus Tavern - It might take a just little more effort to locate this restaurant, but the payoff is worth it. Once you arrive on Paradise Island, take Paradise Island Drive and head east toward the Ocean Club golf course. Just before you reach the golf club security hut, turn right into the Paradise Harbor Club & Marina. At the bottom of the hill, you'll find this quaint, nautical restaurant. This is one of the area's hidden treasures. An open-windowed balcony overlooking Nassau Harbor and New Providence presents a not-to-be-missed panoramic view. It's a perfect setting for a romantic sunset dinner.

A variety of fresh and tasty Bahamian seafood is offered. Dishes such as The Santa Maria, Pasta Columbus and The Columbus Club show Christopher Columbus is still revered. I had the Spring Roll trio (\$12.75) and my mouth was watering for more. The Cajun Snapper (\$16.75) was just perfect. Other items on the menu included Andros Black Crab Cakes, Garlic Grouper, Lobster Salad and Coconut Fried Shrimp. Several traditional Bahamian desserts were available. We had the creme brulee and, while the food here was of high quality and delicious, nevertheless, I don't recommend it. It was thickly covered with raw sugar and laid out flat on a plate. The waiter was so proud of his creme brulee presentation, we didn't have the heart to say anything.

Columbus Tavern is open daily for lunch and dinner from 11:00 a.m. to 11 p.m.. Bahamian breakfast is offered on Sunday starting around nine or 9:30 a.m.. Breakfast is served sometimes during the week, but call ahead to make sure they're open. Happy Hour is five to seven p.m.. Free conch fritters are part of the Happy Hour menu. Call first if you plan to go because I was given two different times for Happy Hour. There's live Bahamian entertainment on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Parking is readily available in the club parking lot. Again, this is one of those restaurants where you can easily overspend, or, taking care, you can eat quite reasonably. I, especially, loved the ambiance and the warm, friendly Bahamian staff.

For more information, phone 363-2534.

Happy Eating!!

Milly

The Commissary bulletin

****SALE***SALE***SALE***SALE***SALE**

Pedigree Canned Dog Food	\$20.00 per case (was \$25.00)
Cat Food	\$4.00 per case (was \$8.00)
Gain Laundry Detergent	\$15.00 for 120 Load Use (was \$25.00)
Tide Laundry Detergent	\$20.00 for 120 Load Use (was \$35.00)
Wheat Crackers	\$2.00 per box (was \$4.00)
Ruffles Ranch and French Onion Dips	\$1.50 per jar

Your Commissary Still Needs Volun- teers



The Commissary is still in need of volunteers to operate the store. We have 57 members and 6 volunteers.

If you are available during Commissary hours for even one Wednesday or Saturday in the near future, please contact

Commissary Hours

**Wednesdays 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
& Saturdays 10:00 - 2:00 PM.**

Cold Beverages Now Available!

Memberships required; Call Kay at ext. 4285

**25% OFF
Alcoholic Beverages**
Except Beer, Wine, & Bacardi

Your Commissary Board:

- ◆ Jeff Rotering
ext. 4218
- ◆ Ray Catena
ext. 4336
- ◆ Shannon McBrayer
327-0209
- ◆ Pat Wielke
- ◆ Scott Buttrick
ext. 4224
- ◆ Bel Vanderploeg
ext. 4275
- ◆ Kevin Stanfill
ext. 4328
- ◆ Lori Johns
ext. 4254



IMPORTANT Reminder to Parents of Schoolchildren

Classes are filling up quickly at St. Andrew's, Lyford Cay, and Tamberly. Please remember to pay tuition on time, as your children could lose their places in next year's classes. Many classes have already closed to new enrollment.

Contact CLO if you have any questions.

Mystical Spa and Health Club Offer

Mystical Spa and Health Club is located in the Palmdale Shopping Center on Madeira St. It has a nursery, a health-food deli, and the largest weight room in the Caribbean. They have offered a group discount to Mission employees. Annual membership is \$390 per person; monthly membership is available for \$45 per person. Hours are:

Monday to Thursday 5:00 a.m.— 10:00 p.m.

Friday 5:00 a.m.— 8:00 p.m.

Saturday and Holidays 7:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

Please contact Mr. Matthew Higgs at 325-4111/6 for more

Greek Salads are Back !

NOW ON THURSDAY
\$8.00 regular
\$10.00 with Anchovies or Chicken
(extras please add \$1.00)

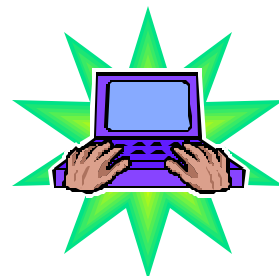
Made with garden fresh romaine hearts, vine ripened tomatoes, oil/vinegar (traditional dressing), cucumbers, onions, Greek olives, feta Cheese, on a fresh pita

Delivery is free (Embassy only). Tips are welcome.

Delivery time will be from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

If interested please contact Lori Johns at ext. 4254 with order and payment.

JUNKANOO JOURNAL ONLINE



Download the Junkanoo Journal from the Embassy Nassau Internet site:

nassau.usembassy.gov

Message from the Ambassador

Thanks to all of you who were able to attend this month's birthday celebration. It is nice to support those who have a birthday to celebrate (or suffer through).

It made my afternoon when I heard someone say that this is such a great group of people and how nice everyone is to each other. We do have a great team here. Everyone works so hard at doing their job and doing it well. I am very proud to be a part of this organization and I will continue to make management/leadership my priority. We will work on being better managers and we are going to do all we can to make the Embassy an even better work environment. Thank you all for everything you do to contribute to our success.

JDR

Essential Numbers

Embassy	322-1181 ext 1
Post One Emergency	328-2206
if busy:	356-3229
Duty Officer Cell	357-7004
Sandyport Health Unit	327-1850/52
Nurse Carol Clowes	427-2508
Police/Fire Emergency	919/911
Doctor's Hospital	322-8411/14
Ambulance	302-4747

1998 Ford Expedition, approx: 71,000 miles
Runs Great, seats 9. \$10,000
Plus \$2,825 duty if applicable
1993 Ford Aero Star Mini Van: Approx: 75,000 miles
Lots of new repairs
\$2000.00 plus duty if applicable

Call Ray Catena at 324-3966 or
Extension 4335

Atlantis is unable to offer passes this weekend due to the Memorial Day Holiday.

Sorry!



For Sale

- Dodge Grand Caravan Sport, year 2000, 41000 miles, well maintained, 4 speed automatic. Asking \$14,000
- VW Golf GL, year 1999, 32000 miles, manual shift. Silver, with power moonroof, CD with 6-CD charger. Asking \$15,000
- Boat Wellcraft, year 2001. 18 ft, with a 150 hp Mariner motor and GPS. Grey canvas Bimini top. Seats 6, with storage spaces. Asking \$15,000

Call Ricardo Sanchez-Moreno at 502-0751 for any enquiry.

Items for Sale

PRICES NEGOTIABLE

1. Crib Bedding Set(2 sheets, bumper, quilt, valence, diaper stacker, diaper genie cover, skirt, bookends, 3 wall hangings, rocking chair pads, mobile) pattern is unisex w/ pastel colors- very cute. \$200
2. Turtle Rug (matches crib bedding) \$25
3. Boys clothing/shoes--toddler size, various prices
4. brown wicker chair \$20, matching pillow \$7
5. Britax car seat(up to 50lbs.) \$90
6. Black ball gown-size 6 (think Marine Ball) \$100
- 7.RCA Direct TV Receiver \$55
8. Large framed pictures \$80/each. picture of forest birds and picture of parrots
9. Toaster oven-general electric \$25
10. neutral shade couch \$100
11. Baby Einstein videos, etc. \$7/ea.
12. ride-on zebra toy \$10

Please call Suzi Hill @ 327-2552 if interested.

Junkanoo Journal Submission Guidelines

Thanks to all of you who contribute to the Junkanoo Journal. Your contributions are what make it a great newsletter! For anyone interested in submitting articles or photos to the Junkanoo Journal, your submissions are welcome! Here are a few guidelines:

- Always submit by email (CLONAS@state.gov) or disk. Because of time constraints, hard copy submissions might not be published.
- Submit articles as plain text. Don't try to format the submission for publication. What you send won't look the same in this document as it did in yours.
- If you're sending a picture and know how to make it a smaller file, please do.
- If you are sending something you did not write yourself, please credit the author and publication.

Submit your advertisements, articles and announcements to the CLO by **COB Wednesday** for Friday publications.

Submissions may be edited for length, clarity, or security. Publication in the *Junkanoo Journal* does not imply endorsement by the Community Liaison Office, Embassy Nassau or the Government of the United States.